

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The non-final Office Action of November 10, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 17-21, 23-34 have been amended. Claims 35-37 have been added. Claims 17-37 remain pending in this application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 18 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and that claims 17-34 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in the Action..

#### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 17-34 stand objected to due to alleged informalities. Without acquiescing to the objections, claims 17, 19, 20, and 26 have been amended to further clarify the scope of protection. Claims 18, 21, and 23-24, and 26-34 have also been amended to further clarify the scope of protection.

Claims 25 and 27 have not been amended to change the phrase “scanned values” to “the sequence of scanned values.” The claims each recite that “scanned values of a demodulated digital input signal are stored in series.” Antecedent basis for the phrase “scanned values” exists; therefore, Applicants contend that there is no need for amending to a “sequence of scanned values.” Withdrawal of the objection of claims 25 and 27 is respectfully requested.

#### ***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph***

Claims 18-24, 29, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Without acquiescing to the rejection, Applicants have amended dependent claim 18 to further clarify the scope of protection of the claim. The amendments are provided to clarify that scanning of the input signal is continued for a predetermined period of time, that calculation of the d.c. voltage quota is continued for a predetermined period of time, and that comparison of the

k-bit word with an expected k-bit synchronization word to determine the correlation value is continued for a predetermined period of time. Applicants believe the present rejection is mooted by the amendment made. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the original written description and drawings.

Without acquiescing to the rejection, Applicants have amended dependent claim 29 to further clarify the scope of protection of the claim. Claim 27, to which claim 29 depends on, recites "a decoding circuit...to form a k-bit word corresponding to the input signal." As such, Applicants have removed the phrase "supplied by the decoding circuit and corresponding to the input signal" as the phrase is redundant for identification of the k-bit word. Applicants have not amended the term "circuit" in line 2 of claim 2. The "comparison and correlation calculating circuit" is identified as such in Applicants' claim 27, to which claim 29 depends. Neither claim 27 nor claim 29 separately recites a "comparison circuit" and a "correlation circuit," as expressed in the Action. As such, amendment to "circuits" is not needed. Applicants believe the present rejection is mooted by the amendment made. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the original written description and drawings.

New claims 35-37 have been added to further clarify the scope of protection of the claims. Support for the claims can be found in Applicants' original written description and drawings. No new matter has been added with the respective new claims.

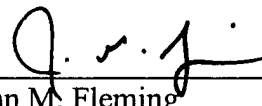
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### **CONCLUSION**

All objections and rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same. Should the Examiner find that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite passage to issue of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below. If any additional required fees are or if an overpayment has been made the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 19-0733. Applicant looks forward to passage to issue of the present application at the earliest convenience of the Office.

Respectfully submitted,  
**BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.**

Date: February 3, 2006

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